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**Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems: A Data Source Book.** R. L. Specht, ed. Tasks for Vegetation Science, 19. 248 pp. Kluwer, 1988. \$125.

The objectives of this volume are to "collate relevant parameters which appear to control the structure and function of major ecosystems . . . in the mediterranean-climate regions of the world." Three-fourths of the book consists of tables listing natural vegetation types, plant ecomorphological characters, foliar nutrient analysis, plant species richness, vertebrate distribution, and climatic parameters. The book is impressive for its attention to detail and the extensive data collection and collating contributed by many scientists.

A few chapters attempt to show how these data can be integrated to reveal broad patterns. It is clear that much remains to be done with this massive data set, although it is not clear who will find this book most useful. Ultimately, only time will tell just how valuable this compilation is.—Jon E. Keeley, *Biology, Occidental College, Los Angeles*